

struggling with bullying—violence—trauma—we owe them greater access to mental health care at school.

We must finally hold social media companies accountable for the experiment they are running on our children for profit.

And it's time to pass bipartisan legislation to stop Big Tech from collecting personal data on kids and teenagers online—ban targeted advertising to children—and impose stricter limits on the personal data these companies collect on all of us.

Third—let's do more to keep our Nation's one truly sacred obligation—to equip those we send into harm's way and care for them and their families when they come home.

Job training and job placement for veterans and their spouses as they return to civilian life. Helping veterans afford their rent—because no one should be homeless in this country—especially not those who served it.

And we cannot go on losing 17 veterans a day to the silent scourge of suicide. The VA is doing everything it can—including expanding mental health screenings—and a proven program that recruits veterans to help other veterans understand what they're going through and get the help they need.

And fourth—last year Jill and I re-ignited the Cancer Moonshot that President Obama asked me to lead in our administration.

Our goal is to cut the cancer death rate by at least 50 percent over the next 25 years. Turn more cancers from death sentences into treatable diseases. And provide more support for patients and families.

It's personal for so many of us.

Joining us are Maurice and Kandice. An Irishman—and a daughter of immigrants from Panama. They met and fell in love in New York City—and got married in the same chapel as Jill and I did. Kindred spirits. He wrote us a letter about their little daughter Ava. She was just a year old when she was diagnosed with a rare kidney cancer. 26 blood transfusions. 11 rounds of radiation. 8 rounds of chemo. 1 kidney removed. A 5 percent survival rate.

He wrote how in the darkest moments he thought—"if she goes, I can't stay." Jill and I understand—like so many of you. They read how Jill described our family's cancer journey—and how we tried to steal moments of joy where you can.

For them—that glimmer of joy was a half-smile from their baby girl. It meant everything. They never gave up hope. Ava never gave up hope. She turns 4 next month.

They just found out that Ava beat the odds—and is on her way to being cancer-free—and she's watching from the White House tonight.

For the lives we can save—and for the lives we have lost—let this be a truly American moment that rallies the country and the world together and proves that we can do big things.

Twenty years ago—under the leadership of President Bush and countless advocates and champions—we undertook a bipartisan effort through PEPFAR to transform the global fight against HIV/AIDS. It's been a huge success. I believe we can do the same with cancer. Let's end cancer as we know it—and cure some cancers once and for all.

There's one reason why we're able to do all of these things—our democracy itself. It's the most fundamental thing of all. With democracy—everything is possible. Without it—nothing is.

For the last few years—our democracy has been threatened—attacked—and put at risk. Put to the test here—in this very room—on January 6th.

And then—just a few months ago—unhinged by the Big Lie—an assailant unleashed political violence in the home of the then-Speaker of this House of Representatives. Using the very same language that insurrectionists who stalked these halls chanted on January 6th.

Here tonight—in this chamber—is the man who bears the scars of that brutal attack—but is as tough and strong and as resilient as they get. My friend—Paul Pelosi.

But such a heinous act never should have happened. We must all speak out—there is no place for political violence in America.

In America—we must protect the right to vote—not suppress that fundamental right. We honor the results of our elections—not subvert the will of the people. We must uphold the rule of the law and restore trust in our institutions of democracy.

And—we must give hate and extremism in any form no safe harbor. Democracy must not be a partisan issue. It must be an American issue.

Every generation of Americans has faced a moment where they have been called on to protect our democracy—to defend it—to stand up for it. And—this is our moment.

My fellow Americans—we meet tonight at an inflection point. One of those moments that only a few generations ever face—where the decisions we make now will decide the course of this Nation—and of the world—for decades to come.

We are not bystanders to history. We are not powerless before the forces that confront us. It is within our power—of We the People.

We are facing the test of our time—and the time for choosing is at hand. We must be the Nation we have always been at our best. Optimistic. Hopeful. Forward-looking.

A Nation that embraces light over darkness—hope over fear—unity over division. Stability over chaos.

We must see each other not as enemies but as fellow Americans. We are a good people—the only Nation in the world built on an idea.

That all of us—every one of us—is created equal in the image of God. A Nation that stands as a beacon to the

world. A Nation in a new age of possibilities.

So I have come here to fulfil my constitutional duty to report on the State of the Union.

And here is my report. Because the soul of this Nation is strong—because the backbone of this Nation is strong—because the people of this Nation are strong—The State of the Union is strong!

As I stand here tonight—I have never been more optimistic about the future of America. We just have to remember who we are. We are the United States of America—and there is nothing—nothing—beyond our capacity—if we do it together!

May God bless you all.

May God protect our troops.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 7, 2023.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 302. An act to direct the Secretary of Energy to provide financial assistance to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing certain courses of study relating to cybersecurity and energy infrastructure, and for other purposes.

H.R. 423. An act to take certain land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 548. An act to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 302. An act to direct the Secretary of Energy to provide financial assistance to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing certain courses of study relating to cybersecurity and energy infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 548. An act to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 9. Concurrent resolution denouncing the horrors of socialism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 259. A bill to ensure transparent and competitive transportation fuel markets in